

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03423 161522Z

45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 OMB-01

ACDA-10 SAB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /091 W

----- 108461

O R 161456Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9631

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3423

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, SOPN, LE (FRANCE)

SUBJECT: GORSE PRESS CONFERENCE IN BEIRUT APRIL 16

1. FRENCH ENVOY GEORGES GORSE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN BEIRUT APRIL 16 FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM A SHORT TRIP TO DAMASCUS. HE LEFT IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER FOR PARIS, ENDING HIS MISSION WITHOUT CALLING AS HAD BEEN EXPECTED ON FATHER CHARBEL KASSIS AND OTHER MARONITE MONKS. ACCORDING TO SOURCES PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, GORSE MADE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:

(A) THERE MUST BE A REAL CEASEFIRE.

(B) LEBANESE MUST LEARN TO GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER AND TO DISCARD

OLD ANTAGONISMS AND CONCEPTS.

(C) LEBANESE SHOULD LET A NEW GENERATION TAKE OVER POWER.

(D) FRANCE WILL NOT INTERVENE IN THE LEBANESE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

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THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE LEBANESE ALONE.

(E) THERE IS NO FRENCH PLAN FOR LEBANON, JUST FRENCH ADVICE.

(F) IF THE NEW LEBANESE PRESIDENT ASKS THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE, FRANCE WILL BE READY TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST. IT IS ALSO READY TO CONSIDER RECONSTRUCTION AID, COORDINATING WITH OTHER NATIONS.

(G) CM MISSION IS NOT CONNECT WITH AMBASSADOR BROWN'S MISSION, THOUGH THEY SHARE MUTUAL INTEREST IN LEBANON'S WELFARE.

(H) "IT IS EVIDENT THAT, IF THE LEBANESE COULD RESPECT A TRUCE, THERE WOULD BE MUCH LESS TALK BOTH PRO AND CON OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION.

2. THE LAST POINT ABOVE IS BEING TAKEN AS AN ENDORSEMENT OF SYRIA'S ROLE IN LEBANON. GENERAL TONE OF GORSE'S REMARKS WAS ADVISING LEBANESE TO TURN OVER NEW LEAF INTERNALLY.
BROWN

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NNN

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